

## Message Text

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53

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 IOE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1600

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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BANGKOK FOR RED

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECA, UN

SUBJECT: ECA - THIRD MEETING OF CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS,  
NAIROBI, FEB. 24-28, 1975

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1. AT CONCLUSION OPENING SESSION ECA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

FEB. 24, THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN MIND OF ANY SPEAKER OR DELEGATE THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS PREPARATORY STEP TOWARD 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA. THEME WHICH EMERGED IN ALMOST ALL SPEECHES WAS NEED TO FIND WAY OUT OF CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS THROUGH SELF-HELP, I.E. COLLECTIVE ACTION, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME MECHANISM OF CONTROL OVER PRICE FLUCTUATIONS IN PRIMARY COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO THE DEVELOPED WORLD; RATHER THAN RELIANCE ON SYMPATHY FROM DEVELOPED WORLD, WHICH IF ANY CASE COULD NO LONGER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, NEWLY-ELECTED CONNERENCE CHAIRMAN KIBAKI OF KENYA DECLARED "ECA MUST POINT THE WAY TO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. MERE WELL-PHRASED RESOLUTIONS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT." CONFERENCE IS WELL-ORGANIZED, AND SPEECHES ARE SERIOUS, RANGING FROM MODERATE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH OF KENYAN VICE PRESIDENT MOI TO HARD-DRIVING MILITANT APPROACH OF ALGERIANS (SEE BELOW).

2. VICE PRESIDENT MOI OF KENYA WAS ONLY SPEAKER TO REMARK ON NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF INCREASED (400-500 PERCENT) OIL PRICES. HE CALLED PRICE INCREASE A "SERIOUS BLOW" TO DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICAN NON-OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HE ADVOCATED A PROGRAM OF SELF-HELP, INCLUDING EXPLORATION OF NEW DOMESTIC ENERGY SOURCES AND REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL OIL.

3. ALGERIAN DELEGATE, MINISTER OF COMMERCE YAKER, HUMORLESS AND SPEAKING WITH SINGLE-MINDED INTENSITY, CALLED ON ECA CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW PATH ESTABLISHED FIRST AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER 1973, LATER AT 6TH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA, AND CARRIED FURTHER BY RECENT DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES. DECISIONS OF DAKAR CONFERENCE, HE SAID, "SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF THIS MEETING." HE LATER MADE SURE THAT DAKAR RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR UNIDO II PREPARED IN ALGIERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL DELEGATES. HE CALLED FOR AN END TO AFRICA AS A "FRUITFUL FIELD FOR EXPLOITATION," AN END TO "THREATS OF INTERVENTION BY FORCE," AND URGED THAT AFRICANS ASSURE FROM TMA PROCESSING OF THEIR OWN RESOURCES ON THE SPOT THE MEANS FOR THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT.

4. ECA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ROBERT GARDINER ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE THE MAJOR THEME FOR THE CONFERENCE: THE TIME FOR DEVELOPMENT RHETORIC IS PAST; THE RECENT WORLDWIDE INFLATION/RECESSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYNDROME HAS PLUNGED MOST AFRICAN ECONOMIES INTO NO-GROWTH SITUATIONS; AND A COMPREHENSIVE TRADE AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND HALF OF DEVELOPMENT DECADE II CANNOT BE ELABORATED WITHOUT ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN SELF-HELP AND EXTERNALLY-FINANCED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. CITING DRAINED FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES OF AFRICA'S 36 LDCS AND DC'S RESTRICTIVE TRADE CONTROLS, GARDINER ADVOCAPD INTENSIVE STUDY OF MEASURES FOR AGRIBUSINESS INDUSTRIES AND LABOR- INTENSIVE PROJECT PLANNING. RECENT GAINS IN COOPERA-

TION AMONGECA, OAU AND UNDP HAVE CREATED MECHANISMS FOR COUNTRY AND SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATCGN. THE PROBLEM, SUGGESTED GARDINER, IS NOT WHERE TO GO IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, BUT HOW TO GET TO FREELY

CHOSEN DESTINIES.

5. OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI STRESSED IN HIS SPEECH THE IMPORTANCE OF ECA AND OAU WORKING TOGETHER TO PREPARE THE AFRICAN POSITION FOR THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA WITHIN THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE RECENT OAU SESSION IN ADDIS ABABA AND THE PREVIOUS WORK DONE BY UNCTAD AND THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION TO THE UNGA. HE NOTED THAT THE MOST DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE TO THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION WAS "DR. KISSINGER'S" (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT GIVE ANY REASONS FOR THIS ASSERTION). HE STATED THAT AFRICA CANNOT BE "TOO MILITANT" IN PROTECTING ITS INTERESTS AND THAT DE-COLONIZATION IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS POLITICAL DE-COLONIZATION.

6. OFFICERS ELECTED AT OPENING SESSION WERE KENYAN MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND PLANNING MWAI KIBAKI, CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN; ALGERIAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE YAKER, FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN; BURUNDIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE MPOZAGARA GABRIEL, SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN; AND SENEGALESE MINISTER OF PLAN OUSMANE SECK, CONFERENCE RAPPORTEUR. GABRIEL VAN LAETHEM, NEW UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MADE FIRST APPEARANCE IN REGIONAL COMMISSION FORUM BY GENERAL AND RATHER BLAND SPEECH OF SUPPORT FOR ECA.

MARSHALL

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